Pakistan nationals, the President stated that Pakistan had not given any asylum to any such persons.

(e) The Government has consistently conveyed that action by Pakistan on the list of 20 will demonstrate its sincerity to permanently stop cross border terrorism against India. Government will take necessary measures to safeguard the country's security.

Totalisation Agreement with USA

952. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USA are going to enter into "Totalisation Agreement" in order to benefit software and other professionals of India working in US on a short-term contract;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed agreement; and

(c) by when the agreement is going to be signed by India and the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. We have proposed entering into a bilateral Totalisation Agreement with the United States to avoid duplication in payment of social security by Indian professionals working in the United States on temporary work visas. The draft Agreement has been shared with U.S. Government, whose comments are awaited. Details of the proposed Agreement are yet to be firmed up. No date can as yet be indicated for signing the Agreement.

Denial of Permission to Cover Pak Parliamentary Election

953. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian media persons were denied permission to cover Parliamentary Election by the Pakistan Government;

(b) the number of Indian scribes who had sought permission; and

(c) the reasons for which they were denied permission.